

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A polishing apparatus for polishing a workpiece, said polishing apparatus comprising:

a polishing table having a polishing surface;

a top ring for holding a workpiece and pressing the workpiece against said polishing surface;

a dresser for dressing said polishing surface, said dresser being angularly moveable; and

a sensor for observing irregularity or undulation of a first area of said polishing surface on said
that is dressed by said dresser and a second area of said polishing surface that has not been dressed
by said dresser, polishing table while said polishing surface is being dressed by said dresser, said
sensor being mounted on said dresser,

wherein said sensor is angularly moveable together with said dresser over the first area and
the second area to measure an amount of a material of the first area that has been worn off, while
using the second area as a reference surface.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising
a display device for displaying the property of said polishing surface observed by said sensor.

4. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said sensor
is vertically movable independently of said top ring or said dresser.

5. (Currently Amended) A polishing apparatus for polishing a workpiece, said polishing
apparatus comprising:

a polishing table having a polishing surface;

a top ring for holding a workpiece and pressing the workpiece against said polishing surface;

a dresser for dressing said polishing surface; and

a sensor for observing a property of a first area of said polishing surface that is dressed by said
dresser and a second area of said polishing surface that has not been dressed by said dresser, on said

~~polishing table~~ while said polishing surface is being dressed by said dresser, said sensor being mounted on said dresser,

~~wherein said sensor is to observe a property of said polishing surface over an area that is larger than an area which is to be dressed by said dresser~~

wherein said sensor is angularly moveable together with said dresser over the first area and the second area to measure an amount of a material of the first area that has been worn off, while using the second area as a reference surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A polishing apparatus for polishing a workpiece, said polishing apparatus comprising:

a polishing table having a polishing surface;

a top ring for holding a workpiece and pressing the workpiece against said polishing surface;

a dresser for dressing said polishing surface;

a sensor for observing a property of a first area of said polishing surface that is dressed by said dresser and a second area of said polishing surface that has not been dressed by said dresser, ~~on said polishing table~~ while said polishing surface is being dressed by said dresser; and

a determination device for comparing an initial property of said polishing surface which is observed by said sensor with a subsequent property of said polishing surface which is subsequently observed by said sensor, and determining when to replace a component of said polishing surface based on a result of the comparison between the initial property and the subsequent property,

wherein said sensor is angularly moveable together with said dresser over the first area and the second area to measure an amount of a material of the first area that has been worn off, while using the second area as a reference surface.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said sensor is for observing irregularity or undulation of said polishing surface.

9. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a display device for displaying the property of said polishing surface observed by said sensor.

10. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said sensor is vertically movable independently of said top ring or said dresser.

Claims 11 and 12 (cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said sensor is vertically movable independently of said top ring or said dresser.

Claims 14-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said sensor is vertically movable independently of said top ring or said dresser.

Claims 20-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display device for displaying the property of said polishing surface observed by said sensor.

24. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said sensor is vertically movable independently of said top ring or said dresser.

25. (Previously presented) The polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is vertically movable independently of said top ring or said dresser.